

Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC)

**SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

Colorado Community College System  
Building 967  
Denver, CO

June 1, 2004  
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meeting Summary

In Attendance:

*Members:*

Samantha O'Neill, Ledy Garcia-Eckstein, Brent Ness, Gary Bien, Tom Kilijanek, George Delaney, Alexandra Hall

*Council Staff:*

Booker Graves, Aron Diaz, Glenn Little, Lee Carter, Steve Wright

*Others:*

Peter Wehner, Mary Beth Susman, Cam Horan

Absent:

Dan Pilcher, Jim Rowell, Lucille Mantelli, Mark Warne, Mary Hillsman, Nina Holland, Roger Smith, Steven Brown, Doug Glynn, Judith Storm, Patty Tank, Woody Hagin

Meeting:

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Meeting was called to order by George Delaney, Co-Chair. Dr. Roger Smith was unable to make the meeting. The attendees introduced themselves.
- II. Nanotechnology and Emerging Industries – Peter Wehner  
  
Booker introduced Mr. Wehner and talked about the importance of learning about this emerging sector of science and technology, explaining that Nanotechnology is not an industry and is not new, it is a sector of discovery and exploration that is growing in influence and familiarity. It will impact everything that we are involved in, including planning and training.

Mr. Wehner gave a brief history of Nanotechnology beginning with its first introduction in a speech by Dr. Richard Feynman. He, along with a former CU student named Kim Eric Drexler, were able to move past the theory of Nanotechnology and put it into practical applications. In 2000, the NanoBusiness Alliance was formed, which is a collective voice for the emerging small tech industry.

Their interests are in research and education, public policy, public awareness, briefings/conferences, and industry support initiatives. Nanotechnology is a global pursuit without borders. We are in competition with the European Union, South America, Australia, and the Pacific Rim.

This isn't a dot-com business. It is tangible, has received government funding, and earns revenue. Current trends include government funding, academic program development, and venture capital investment. There has been a collaborative effort between local, city, state, and federal government branches to support this industry. In December 2003, the Nanotechnology Act was signed by the President, allowing for \$3.8 billion over four years, dictating that at least, \$900,000,000 is appropriated each year.

Major corporations have shown their commitment to Nano development. There will be a conference this week at the Convention Center to educate the public about this industry. The Governor will be in attendance, as well as large corporations, like Qwest.

The major roadblocks to the growth of Nanotechnology are too much hype, not enough hype, lags in the technical capabilities, lack of venture capital, health/environmental problems, activists, and ever-changing priorities in Washington, DC.

There are several websites to check out for more information: [www.Nanobusiness.org](http://www.Nanobusiness.org) for breaking news, reports, and newsletters; [www.forbeswolfe.co](http://www.forbeswolfe.co) for opinions; [www.smalltimes.com](http://www.smalltimes.com) for news and opinions; [www.workingin-nanotechnology.com](http://www.workingin-nanotechnology.com) for jobs in the industry.

There is a big need for those that understand Nanotechnology's role in the economy and that it's here to stay. Community colleges are a great source for candidates with adaptable skills. They don't have to major in Nanotechnology, but those with knowledge of electronics and machinists make great candidates.

### III. LMI – Alex Hall

Just got back from a conference with the Bureau of Labor & Statistics. In March and April, there were double-digit gains in employment at the state level. Several industries are adding jobs, like manufacturing, trade, and professional and business services. The financial services industry is slowing down. According to the job vacancy surveys, there has been a 40% growth in vacancies, indicating that this is a real growth trend, not just an isolated spurt. Working on a national program to make information available in all states. Classification systems are online and available at [lehd.dsd.census.gov](http://lehd.dsd.census.gov). Distributed packets with publications and information from the past six months. Would like feedback after everyone has a chance to review the information.

Had a target of 125 attendees for the LMI User Conference and registration had to be cut off three weeks early with 190 attendees. Conference focused on Workforce Center Professionals and there was good feedback. Working to make it fresh, interesting, and informative for business and workforce professionals. Making a presentation at the conference in Aspen. MOWD really enjoyed the conference and got a lot out of it. Working on how long the conference should be; they don't want to take too much time, but the information is pretty technical. Planning for the next conference has already begun.

#### IV. Community College System Support – George Delaney

The Efficiency Task Force has made recommendations and the administrative budget will be reduced by 35% (staff and operating money). The ability to start new initiatives will, therefore, be very limited. The Community College system has been a key source in nursing education. There have been budget cuts of 30% over the last three years in each school. The system is still faced with a 10% reduction at the schools.

Preparing a proposal for the SDPC to review to help the situation. Currently have 1180 nursing students enrolled, which is nowhere near the need. There are long waiting lists for students. Graduated 1130 students in 2002. Need to discuss how to get more students into nursing and have them complete the program rapidly. The application process is a big hurdle, since there isn't a uniform documents being used. Waiting lists are not universal or shared, and there needs to be a common, regional waiting list. Need to improve communications with hospitals and increase clinicals. Need to look at faculty pay, because hiring nursing faculty is difficult. Need to look at financing new technology and expanding partnerships. The main piece to the proposal is to be able to hire a Nursing Coordinator who will make the necessary changes and enforce them. Need to find financing for this Nursing Director and the activities associated with that position.

There are lots of opportunities to assist and this matter deserves the attention of the Council.

V. Project Quarterly Reports – Glenn Little/Booker Graves

Reviewed the quarterly reports pertaining to the grants approved by the SDPC.

VI. Awards Process – Booker Graves

The deadline for submission for grant awards ends on June 28<sup>th</sup>. All funds are open for one window of time. We need volunteers to review the grant proposals. There will be a complete matrix of rating factors and criteria, and there needs to be a focus on funding projects that are fundable. We are looking at the last two weeks in July or the first week in August. Tom Kilijanek volunteered for the review team.

VII. Director's Report – Booker Graves

Workforce Office budget and expenses are \$347,000. The 10% Discretionary Funds total is \$36,000,000, which is a 37% increase from last year.

Received a \$358,000 Youth Transition Grant to improve youth with disabilities programs in high school. Process has begun with Steve and Lee taking the lead. The idea is to intervene early and help them decide that they don't want to wait around for their Social Security check.

The eLearning Portal is a learning center for employment and training specialists and educators to improve their skills and exchange knowledge. It will be active by the end of the week and a demo will take place at the Aspen conference. The website is [www.e-Colorado.org](http://www.e-Colorado.org).

The Council Chairman has invited workforce professionals from around the country to a meeting in August, from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>. We will host a reception for them on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We would like to have as much Council support as possible. Trying to get the Governor to attend and still deciding on a location.

We are in the process of preparing a statewide healthcare demonstration grant that will build partnerships with area hospitals. Would like to be able to use the same model for other emerging industries.

Leading a coalition of agencies, police departments, etc. to produce a demonstration project that will address offenders being released into society. Grant will provide support, skills training, and oversight, which will give the ex-offender a real chance at success.

Legislative Issues – WIA has not been reauthorized yet. Higher education funding has been modified (voucher funding) and tourism funding is at a crucial stage with a bill being presented to provide permanent funding.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.